THE PRINCIPALL ACTS OF THE GENERALL ASSEMBLY, CONVENED AT EDINBURGH,

The first VVednesday of *July* the fourth of that Moneth, in the year, 1649.

EDINBURGH,

Printed by *Evan Tyler*, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majesty. 1649.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY Holden at EDINBURGH,

July 7. 1649.
Mr Robert Douglass Moderator.

Iuly 7. 1649. *Antemeridiem.* Seſſ. IV.

Approbation of the proceedings of the Commiſsioners of the General Aſſembly.

THE Generall Aſſembly having heard the report of the Committee appointed for reviſing the proceedings of the Commiſſioners of the preceding Aſſembly; And finding thereby, that in all their proceedings they have been zealous, diligent and faithfull, in the diſcharge of the truſt committed to them, do therefore unanimouſly Approve & Ratifie the whole proceedings, Acts and Concluſions of the ſaid Commiſſion; Appointing Mr. *John Bell* Moderator *pro tempore* to return them heartie thanks in the name of the Aſſembly for their great pains, travil and fidelity.

Iuly 10. 1649. *Antemeridiem.* Seſſ. VI.

Approbation of the Commiſsioners ſent to his Majeſty.

THE Generall Aſſembly having taken in ſerious conſideration the Report of the Travells and Proceedings of the Commiſſioners ſent to his Majeſtie preſented by them this day, Together with the Commiſſion and Inſtructions which were given unto them; Do finde by the Report, that they have been very diligent and faithfull in the diſcharge of the Truſt Committed to them: And therefore, do unanimouſly Approve of their Carriage, and return them hearty thanks for their great Pains and Travails in that Imployment.

Iuly 19. 1649. *Postmeridiem.* Sess. XVIII.

Act discharging promiscuous Dancing.

THE Assembly finding the scandall and abuse that arises thorow promiscuous Dancing: Do therefore Inhibit and discharge the same, and do referre the Censure thereof to severall Presbyteries, Earnestly Recommending it to their care and diligence.

Iuly 20. 1649. *Antemeridiem.* Sess. XIX.

Act concerning the receiving of Engagers in the late unlawfull War against England, *to publick Satisfaction, Together with the Declaration and Acknowledgment to be subscribed by them.*

THE Generall Assembly considering what great offence against God, and Scandal to his People at home and abroad hath arisen from the late unlawfull Engagement in War against *England*, whereby, contrary to the Law of God and of Nations, contrary to the Solemn League and Covenant, contrary to the Petitions of almost the whole Kingdom, contrary to the Declarations of the Judicatories of this Kirk, contrary to the Protestations of a considerable part of the Parliament, contrary to the frequent and clear warnings of the Servants of God in his name, not onely an Association in Counsels and Arms was made with Malignant persons, who had formerly shewn their dis-affection to the Covenant and Cause, but an invasion of the Neighbour Nation was prosecuted; from whence flowed the oppression of the persons, estates and consciences of many of the People of God in this Land, the shedding of the blood of some, the losse and dishonour of this Nation, and severall other inconveniences: And considering that the Commissioners of the last Generall Assembly have acquit themselves faithfully, in ordainiug to be suspended from the renewing of the Covenant, and from the Ordinance of the Lords Supper, such as are designed in their Acts of Date the 6. of *October* and 4. of *December* last, referring the further consideration and censure of the persons foresaid to this present Generall Assembly: Therefore the Generall Assembly for removing of such offences, and for prevention of the like in time coming, and for restoring of such as are truly humbled, do Declare and Appoint,

I. That all those who have been guilty and censured as foresaid, and withal, do not by their addresses to Kirk Judicatories testifie their dislike thereof, and give evidences of their Repentance

tance therefore, That these be processed, and continuing obstinate, be excommunicated; But if withall they go on in promoving Malignant Designes, that they be forthwith Excommunicated: As also that all such persons guilty as aforesaid, who after Profession of their Repentance shall yet again hereafter relapse to the promoting any Malignant Designe, that these be likewise forthwith excommunicated.

II. That all these who have been guilty and censured as aforesaid, and desire to testifie their Repentance, and to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion, shall besides any Confession in publick before the Congregation subscribe the Declaration hereto sub-joyned, of their unfained detestation and renunciation of that Engagement, and all other Malignant courses contrary to the Covenant and Cause, Promising to keep themselves from such ways in time coming, and acknowledging that if they shall again fall into such defection thereafter, they may justly be accompted perfidious backsliders, and breakers of the Covenant and Oath of God, and proceeded against with the highest Censures of the Kirk.

III. That of these who have been guilty and censured as aforesaid, and desire now to testifie their Repentance, Whosoever were formerly joyned in Arms or Counsell with *James Graham* in his Rebellion, or who were Generall persons or Colonels in the late unlawfull Engagement, Or who went to *Ireland* to bring over Forces for that effect, Or who have been eminently active in contriving of, or seducing unto the said Engagement, or whosoever above the degree of a Lieutenant Commanded these parties, that in promoving of the ends of the said Engagement shed blood within the Kingdom, either before that Army of Engagers went to *England*, or after their return, Or who above the degree foresaid Commanded in the late Rebellion in the North; That none of these be admitted or received to give satisfaction, but by the Generall Assembly or their Commissioners.

IV. That all the rest of these who have been guilty, or censured as aforesaid, may be received by the Presbyteries where they reside.

V. That all who have been guilty as aforsaid, before their receiving to the Covenant, shall make a Solemn publick Acknowledgement in such matter, and before such Congregations as the Commission of the Generall Assembly or Presbyteries *respective* shall prescribe, according to the degree of their offence and scandall given.

VI. That none of the foresaid Persons be admitted, or received as Elders in any Judicatories of the Kirk, but according to the Act of the Generall Assembly of the last of *August* 1647. against complyers of the first Classe.

And because many have heretofore made shew and profession of their Repentance, who were not convinced of their guiltinesse nor humbled for the same, but did thereafter return with the dog

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to the vomit, and with the sow to the puddle, unto the mocking of God, and the exceeding great reproach and detriment of his Cause: Therefore, for the better determining the Truth and sincerity of the Repentance of those who desire to be admitted to the Covenant and Communion: It is appointed and Ordained that none of those persons who are debarred from the Covenant and Communion shall be admitted and received thereto, but such as after exact triall, shall be found for some competent time before or after the offer of their Repentance, according to the discretion of the respective Judicatories, to have in their ordinary conversations given real Testimony of their dislike of the late unlawfull Engagement, and of the courses and wayes of Malignants, and of their sorrow for their accession to the same; and to live soberly, righteously and godly; And if any shall be found, who after the defeating of the Engagers have uttered any Malignant speeches, tending to the approbation of the late unlawfull Engagement, or the blood-shed within the Kingdome for promoving of the ends of the said Engagement, or any other projects or practises within or without the Kingdome, prejudiciall to Religion and the Covenant, or tending to the reproach of the Ministry, or the civill Government of the Kingdom, Or who have unnecessarily or ordinarily conversed with Malignant and disaffected persons, Or who have had hand in, or accession to, or compliance with, or have any wayes countenanced or promoved any Malignant Design, prejudiciall to Religion and the Covenant; That these, notwithstanding their profession of Repentance be not suddenly received, but a competent time, according to the discretion of the Judicatory, be assigned to them for tryall of the evidence of their Repentance, according to the qualifications above mentioned. And the Generall Assembly Ordains Presbyteries to make intimation of this Act in the severall Kirks of their bounds so soon as they can, after the rising of the Generall Assembly, that none pretend ignorance; And that Presbyteries make accompt of their diligence in prosecuting of this Act to the Quarterly meetings of the Commission of this Assembly.

The Declaration and Acknowledgement before mentioned.

after due consideration of the late Warre against the Kingdom of *England*; And having also considered the course pursued and promoted by the Earle of *Lanerk*, *George Monro* and their Adherents in and about *Stirling*, and by others in the late Rebellion in the North, against all which not only eminent Testimonies of Gods Wrath have been given in defeating of them, but they wherein themselves sinfull breaches of Covenant, and preferring the interest of man unto God; I doe herefore in Gods sight professe, that I am convinced of the unlawfulnesse of all these ways, as contrary to the Word of God, and to the Solemn League and Covenant, not only in regard of the miscarriages of these that were em-

imployed therein, but also in respect of the nature of these courses themselves; And therefore professing my unfained sorrow for my guiltinesse by my accession to the same, doe renounce and disclaim the foresaid Engagement and all the courses that were used for carrying on the same, either before or after the defeat of the Engagers, as contrary to the Word of GOD and Solemn League and Covenant, and destructive to Religion and the work of Reformation; And I doe promise in the power of the Lords strength, never again to own any of these or the like courses: And if hereafter at any time, I shall be found to promote any Malignant Design or course, that I shal justly be accompted a perfidious Covenant-breaker and despiser of the Oath of God, and be proceeded against with the highest Censures of the Kirk: Likeas, I doe hereby promise to adhere to the National Covenant of this Kingdome, and to the Solemn League and Covenant betwixt the Kingdomes, and to be honest and zealous for promoving all the ends thereof, as I shall be called thereunto of God, and to flee all occasions and temptations that may lead me into any the like snaresagainst the same. Subscribed at the day of

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Iuly 24. 1649. *Postmeridiem.* Sess. XXIII.

To the High and Honourable Court of PARLIAMENT.

The Generall Assembly, Humbly Sheweth,

THat whereas we have seen and considered the Act of Parliament abolishing Patronages, and doe highly commend the piety and zeal of the Estates of Parliament in promoving so necessary a point of Reformation; The Generall Assembly do humbly supplicate, that beside the setling of the Ministers stipends, that the Tythes mentioned in the said Act, may be affected with the burthen of pious uses, within the respective Paroches, conform to a draught of an Act seen by the Commissioners of the late General Assembly before it passed in Parliament; And that the foresaid Act may be made effectuall for the setling of Ministers Stipends in Kirks erected, and necessary to be erected according to the Tenour of the Act of Parliament, And for this effect, that your Lordships will hasten the sitting of the Commission for Plantation of Kirks, with all convenient diligence, and your Lordships Answer.

July

27. *July*, 1649. *Antemeridiem* Sess. 27.

A seasonable and necessary Warning and Declaration, concerning Present and Imminent dangers, and concerning duties relating thereto, from the General Assembly of this Kirk, unto all the Members thereof.

THE Lord who chooses Jerusalem in a furnace of Affliction, hath been pleased since the beginning of the work of Reformation in this Land, to exercise his People with many trialls; all that desired to keep a good conscience, were not long agoe under many heavy and sad pressures from the insolency and oppression of a prevailing party of dis-affected and Malignant men, who under a pretext of bringing the King to a condition of Honour, Freedom and Safety, did carry on an unlawful Engagement against the Kingdom of *England*: and if the Lord had not been mercifull unto his people, they were like, either to have been banished out of the Land, or to have been kept in a perpetuall bondage in their consciences, persons and estates: But he whose Messengers those men had mocked, and whose word they had despised, did bring them down suddenly in a day, and restored liberty and peace unto his people: A mercy and deliverance, which as it ought to be remembred with thankfulnesse and praise, so may it engage our hearts not to faint in troubles and straites that do yet abide us, but to trust in the name of the Lord, who both can and will deliver us still out of all our afflictions.

Albeit, wee do now enjoy many rich and precious blessings wherein wee have reason to be comforted, and to rejoyce; yet it were to shut our own eyes if we should not see our selves involved in, and threatned with many and great dangers at home and from abroad. It is matter of exceeding great sorrow to think upon the ignorance and profanity, the impenitencie and security that abounds still in the Land, notwithstanding all the gracious dispensation of the Gospel, and means of grace in such purity and plenty, that none of the Nations round about us can boast of the like, and of all the long-suffering patience of the Lord, and of all his sharp rods wherewith he hath afflicted us from year to year, and of all the mercies and deliverances wherewith he hath visited us, and of our late solemn confession of sinnes, and engagement unto duties, sealed with the renewing of the Covenant and the Oath of God; Which some men have so far already forgotten, as to return with the dogge

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to the vomit, and with the ſow to the puddle: And many ſignes of inconſtancy and levity do appear among all ſorts and ranks of perſons, who ſeem to want nothing but a ſutable tentation to draw them away from their ſteadfaſtneſſe; Our Army is not yet ſufficiently purged, but there be ſtill in it Malignant and ſcandalous men, whoſe fidelity and conſtancy, as it is much to be doubted, ſo is the wrath of the Lord to be feared, upon their proceedings and undertakings, without a ſpeedy and effectuall remedy.

That prevailing party of Sectaries in *England*, who have broken the Covenant, and deſpiſed the Oath of God, corrupted the truth, ſubverted the fundamentall Government by King and Parliament, and taken away the Kings life, look upon us with an evill eye, as upon theſe who ſtand in the way of their monſtruous and new fangled devices in Religion and Government; And though there were no cauſe to fear any thing from that party but the Gangrene and infection of thoſe many damnable and abominable errours which have taken hold on them, yet our vicinity unto, and daily commerce with that Nation, may juſtly make us afraid that the Lord may give up many in this Land unto a ſpirit of deluſion to beleeve lies, becauſe they have not received the love of the truth.

Neither is the Malignant party ſo far broken and brought low, as that they have abandoned all hopes of carrying on their former deſigns againſt the Covenant and work of Reformation: Beſide many of them in this Kingdom, who are as Foxes tied in chains, keeping their evill nature, and waiting an oppertunity to break their cords, and again to prey upon the Lords people; there be ſtanding Armies in *Ireland*, under the command of the Marqueſſe of *Ormond*, The Lord *Inchqueen*, the Lord of *Airds*, and *George Munro*, who forgetting all the horrible cruelty that was exerciſed by the Iriſh Rebels, upon many thouſands of the Engliſh and Scottiſh Nations in that land, have entred into a Peace and Aſſociation with them, that they may the more eaſily carry on the old deſignes of the Popiſh, Prelaticall and Malignant party; And the Lord of *Airds*, and *George Monro*, have by treachery and oppreſſion brought the Province of *Vlſter*, and Garriſons therein, under their power and Command, and have redacted our country-men, and ſuch as adhere unto the Covenant, and cauſe of God in that Province, unto many miſeries and ſtraits, and are like to baniſh the Miniſters of the Goſpell, and to overturn theſe faire beginnings of the work of God, which were unto many a branch of hope, that the Lord meant to make *Ireland* a pleaſant land.

But which is more grievous unto us then all theſe, our King, notwithſtanding of the Lords hand againſt his Fathers oppoſition to the work of God, and of the many ſad and dolefull conſequences that followed thereupon, in reference to Religion and his Subjects, and to his perſon, and Government, doth hearken unto the councels of theſe who were Authors of theſe miſeries to his Royall Father and

his Kingdoms: By which it hath come to passe, that his Majesty hath hitherto refused to grant the just and necessary desires of this Kirk and Kingdom, which were tendred unto him from the Commissioners of both for securing of Religion, the Liberties of the Subject, his Majesties Government, and the Peace of the Kingdome; And it is much to be feared that those wicked Counsellours may so farre prevaile upon him in his tender yeers, as to engage him in a warre, for overturning (if it be possible) of the work of God, and bearing down all those in the three Kingdoms that adhere thereto: Which if he shall doe, cannot but bring great wrath from the Lord upon himselfe and his Throne, and must be the cause of many new, and great miseries, and calamities to these Lands.

It concerns a Nation thus sinfull and loaden with iniquity, and involved in so many difficulties and dangers, by timous repentance and unfained humiliation to draw near to God, and to wrastle with him in Prayer and Supplication, that our sin may be pardoned, and our iniquity done away; and that he would establish the Land in the love of the truth, and inable every on in their station to do their duty boldly and without fear, and in a humble dependance upon the Lord, in whom alone is the salvation of his people; Every man ought with all faithfulnesse and diligence, to make use of all these means that are approven and allowed of God, for preserving and carrying on of his work, and for securing and guarding the Land against all enemies whatsomever, both upon the right hand and upon the left.

The Spirit of errour and delusion in our Neighbour Land, in the policie of Satan hath vailed it self in many, under the mask of holinesse, and is in the righteous and wise dispensation of God, armed with power, and attended with successe: Therefore all the Inhabitants of this land would labour for more knowledge, and more love of the truth, without which they may easily be deceived, and led into tentation, and would learn to distinguish betwixt the shew and power of godlinesse. We know that there be many in *England* who be truly godly, and mourn with us for all the errours and abominations that are in that land; But it is without controversie, that that Spirit which hath acted in the Courses and Counsels of these, who have retarded and obstructed the work of God, dispiled the Covenant, forced the Parliament, murthered the King, changed the civill Government, and estalished so vast a Toleration in Religion, cannot be the Spirit of Righteousnesse and Holinesse, because it teaches not men to live godly and righteously, but drawes thē aside into errour, and makes them to bring forth the bitter fruits of impiety and iniquity, and therefore ought to be avoyded. And not only are such of our Nation as travaile in our Neighbour-land, to take heed unto themselves, that they receive not infection from such as are leavened with Errour, but these also who live at home, especially in those

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places where Sectaries, upon pretext of merchandise, and other civill imployments, ordinarily traffique and converse. Neither needs any man to be afraid of the power and successe of that party, they who have gadded about so much to change their way, shall ere long be ashamed; The lord hath rejected their confidences, and they shall not prosper in them; How farre they may proceed in their Resolutions and Actings against this Kingdome, is in the hand of the most high; If the Lord shall suffer that party to invade this land, it may be the comfort and incouragement of all the Inhabitants thereof, that not only hath that unlawfull engagement against the Kingdom of *England* been declared against, and condemned both by Kirk and State; but also that these men can pretend no quarrell against us, unlesse it be, that we have adhered unto the Solemn League and Covenant, from which they have so foully revolted and backslidden; and that we have borne testimony against Toleration, and their proceedings in reference to Religion and Government, and the taking away of the Kings life: And therefore we trust that in such a case none will be so farre deficient in their duty as not to defend themselves against such injust violence, & in the strength of the Lord to adhere unto their former principles, with much boldnes of spirit, and willingnesse of heart; In this certainly we shall have a good conscience and the Lord shall be with us.

We are not so, to have the one of our eyes upon the Sectaries, as not to hold the other upon the Malignants, they being an enemy more numerous, and no lesse subtile and powerfull nor the other, and at this time more dangerous unto us, not onely because experience hath proven that there is a greater aptitude and inclination in these of our Land, to complie with Malignants then Sectaries, in that they carry on their wicked designes under a pretext of being for the King; But also because there be many of them in our own bowels, and for that they doe pretend to be for maintenance of the Kings Person and Authority, and (which is the matter of our grife) because the King ownes their principles and wayes; which if it be not taken heed unto, may prove a great snare, and dangerous tentation to many to side with them against the Lords people, and his cause. The constant tenour of the carriage of these in this land, who stand for the cause of God, are undeniable arguments of their affection to Monarchy, and to that Royal Family & Line wch hath sweyed the Scepter of this Kingdom for many hundreds of yeers past. Albeit his Majestie who lately reigned, refused to harken to their just desires, yet did they with [illegible] patience and moderation of mind, supplicate and solicite his Majesty for satisfaction in these things that concern Religion and the Covenant, and were still willing, that upon satisfaction given, he should be admitted to the exercise of his power; and whatsoever envie and malice objects to the contrary, were carefull to get assurance concerning the safety of his Majesties Person, when they brought their Army out of *England*; and when notwithstanding

withstanding of that assurance, the prevailing party of Sectaries were acting for his life, did to the utmost of their power, endeavour by their Commissioners that there might have been no such proceeding; And when their desires and endeavours were not successfull, did protest and bear testimony against the same. And, as both Kirk and State had testified their tender respect to his Majesty who now reigns, by their Letters written to him whilst his Father was yet living, So no sooner did the Parliament heare of his Fathers death, but they did with all solemnity proclaim him King of these Kingdoms; And after they had acquainted his Majesty by Messages with their proceedings herein, Commissioners were sent both from State and Kirk instructed with power and Commission to expresse the affection of this Kingdome to Monarchy, and his Majesties Person and Government, together with their desires concerning the security of Religion, and the Peace of those King doms. And albeit the desires of both which are now published to the world, with his Majesties answers thereto, are such as are most just and necessary; yet the Counsels of the malignant party had so great influence upon his Majesty, that his answers are not only not satisfactory, but short of that which was many times granted by his Royall Father, and cannot be acquiesced unto, unlesse we would abandon the League and Covenant, and betray Religion, and the cause of God.

We hold it the duty of all who live in this Land, to wrestle with God in the behalfe of the King, that he may be recovered out of the snare of evill Counsell, and brought to give satisfaction to the publick desires of Kirk and State; and in their places and stations to use all endeavours with himselfe and others for that effect, and to be willing, upon satisfaction given, to admit him to the exercise of his power, and cheerfully to obey him in all things according to the wil of God, and the Lawes of the Kingdom, and to do every thing that tends to the preservation of his Majesties person, and just greatnesse and Authority, in the defence and preservation of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdomes.

But if his Majesty, or any having, or pretending power and Commission from him, shall invade this Kingdom, upon pretext of establishing him in the exercise of his Royall power, as it will be an high provocation against God to be accessory or assisting thereto, so wil it be a necessary duty to resist & oppose the same. We know that many are so forgetfull of the oath of God, & ignorant & careles of the interest of Jesus Christ & the Gospel, and doe so little tender that which concerns his Kingdom & the Privileges thereof, and do so much dote upon absolute & Arbitrary Government for gaining their owa ends, & so much maligne the Instruments of the work of Reformation, that they would admit his Majesty to the exercise of his Royall power upon any termes whatsoever, though with never so much prejudice to Religion, and the Liberties of these Kingdomes, and would think it quarrell enough to make War upon

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all those who for conscience sake cannot condescend thereto. But We desire all these who fear the Lord, and mind to keep their Covenant impartially to consider these things which followes.

1 That as Magistrates and their power is ordained of God, so are they in the exercise thereof, not to walk according to their owne will, but according to the Law of equity and righteousnesse, as being the Ministers of G O D for the safety of his People; Therefore a boundles and illimitted power is to be acknowledged in no King nor Magistrate; Neither is Our King to be admitted to the exercise of his power as long as he refuses to walk in the Administration of the same, according to this rule, and the established Laws of the Kingdom, that his Subjects may live under him a quiet and peaceable life in all Godlinesse and honestie.

2. There is ane mutuall Obligation and Stipulation betwixt the King and his People; As both of them are tied to G O D, so each of them are tied one to another for the performance of mutuall and reciprocal duties: According to this, It is Satute and Ordained in the 8. Act of the 1. Parliament of King *James* the 6. *That all Kings, Princes or Magistrates whatsoever, halding their place, which hereafter shall happen in any time to Raign and beare rule over this Realm, at the time of their Coronation and receipt of their Princely Authority, make their faithfull promise by Oath in the presence of the Eternall G O D that during the whole course of their lives, they shall serve the same Eternall G O D to the utmost of their power, according as he hath required in his most Holy Word contained in the Old and New Testament, And according to the same Word, shall maintain the true Religion of* Christ Jesus, *the Preaching of His most Holy Word, and due and right ministration of His Sacraments now received and Preached within this Realm, And shall abolish and gainstand all false religion contrary to the same, And shall rule the people committed to their charge according to the Will and Command of G O D revealed in his VVord, and according to the lovable Lawes and Constitutions received within this Realm, And shall procure to the utmost of their power to the Kirk of God and the whole Christian People, true and perfect peace in all time comming, And that Justice and Equity be keeped to all creatures without exception.* Which Oath was sworn, first by King *James* the 6. and afterwards by King *Charles* at his Coronation, and is inserted in our Nationall Covenant, which was approven by the King, who lately Reigned: As long therefore as his Majesty who now Reignes, refuses to hearken to the just and necessary desires of State and Kirk, propounded to his Majesty for the Security of Religion, and safety of his People, ane to engage and oblige himself for the performance of his Duty to his People, It is consonant to Scripture and reason and the Laws of the Kingdom, that they should refuse to admit him to the exercise of his Government, untill he give satisfaction in these things.

In

3. In the League and Covenant which hath been so solemly sworn and renewed by this Kingdom, the Dutie of defending & preserving the Kings Majesties Person and Authority is joyned with, and subordinat unto the dutie of preserving and defending the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdoms: And therefore his Majestie standing in opposition to the just and necessary publick desires concerning Religion and Liberties, it were a manifest Breach of Covenant, and a preferring of the Kings interest to the intrest of *Jesus Christ*, to bring him to the exercise of his Royal power, which he, walking in a contrary way, and being compassed about with Malignant counsels, cannot but employ unto the prejudice and ruin of both.

4. Was not an Arbitrary Government and unlimited power, the fountain of most of all the Corruptions both in Kirk and State? And was it not for restraint of this, and for their own just defence against Tyranny and injust violence, which ordinarily is the fruit and effect of such a power, that the Lords People did joyn in Covenant, and have been at the expense of so much blood, pains and treasure these yeers past? And if his Majestie should be admitted to the exercise of his Government before satisfaction given, were it not to put in his hand that Arbitrary Power, which we have upon just and necessary grounds been so long withstanding, and so to abandon our former Principles, and betrary our Cause?

5. The King being averse from the Work of Reformation and the instruments thereof, and compassed about with Malignant & disaffected men, whom he hearkens unto as his most faithfull Counsellers, and looks upon as his best and most Loyall Subjects, We leave it to all indifferent men to judge, whether his Majestie, being admitted to the exercise of his Power before satisfaction given, would not by such Counsells endeavour an overturning of the things which GOD hath wrought amongst us, and labour to draw publick administrations concerning Religion and the liberties of the Subject, unto that course and channall in which they did run under Prelacie, and before the Work of Reformation: Which we have the more cause to fear, because his Royall Father did so often declare, that he conceived himself bound to employ all the power that GOD should put in his hands to the utmost for these ends, and that he adheres as yet to his Fathers Principles, and walkes in his way, and hath made a Peace with the *Irish* Rebels, by which is granted unto them the full liberty of Popery.

6. It is no strange nor new thing for Kingdoms to preserve Religion and themselves from ruine, by putting restraint upon the exercise of the power and Government of those who have refused to grant those things that were necessary for the good of Religion, and the Peoples safety. There have bin many precedents of it in this and other nations of old, and of late. Upon these & other important considerations, It shall be the wisdom of every one who dwell in the Land, to take heed of such a temptation and snare, that they be

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not accessory to any such designes or endeavours, as they would not bring upon themselves, and upon their families, the guilt of all the detriment that will undoubtedly follow thereupon to Religion and the Covenant, and of all the miseries and calamities that it will bring upon his Majesties Person and throne, and upon these Kingdoms; Such a thing would in all appearance be the undermining and shaking, if not the overthrowing & destroying of the work of Reformation: And therefore whosoever attempt the same, oppose themselves to the Cause of GOD, and will at last dash against the Rock of the LORDS Power, which hath broken in pieces many high and lofty ones since the beginning of this work in these Kingdoms: And it is unto us a sure Word of Promise, That whosoever shall associate themselves, or take counsell together, or gird themselves against GOD and His Work, shall be broken in pieces.

It is not onely joyning in Arms with the Malignant partie, that all these who would keep their integritie has need to beware of, but also subtill devices and designes, that are promoted by fair pretexts and perswasions to draw men to dispense at least with some part of these necessarie desires, that are propounded to his Majestie for securing of Religion. After many turnings and devises the foundation of the unlawfull Engagement was at last laid by his Majesties Concessions in the year 1648. Wherein though many things seemed to be granted, yet that was denied, without which Religion and the Vnion betwixt the Kingdoms could not have been secured: And it is probable, that such a way may be allayed again, and prosecuted with very much cunning and skill to deceive and insnare the simple. It doth therefore concern all ranks and conditions of persons to be the more warie and circumspect, especially in that which concerns the Nationall Covenant, and the Solemn League and Covenant, that before his Majestie be admitted to the exercise of his Royall Power, that by and attour the Oath of Coronation, he shall assure and declare by his Solemn Oath under his hand and seal his allowance of the Nationall Covenant, and of the Solemn League and Covenant, and obligation to prosecute the ends thereof in his Station and Calling, and that he shall for himself and his successours, consent and agree to Acts of Parliament, injoyning the Solemn League and Covenant, and fully Establishing Presbyteriall Government, the Directory of Worship, the Confession of Faith and Catechisme, as they are approven by the Generall Assembly of this Kirk and Parliament of this Kingdom, in all his Majesties Dominions, and that he shall observe these in his own Practise and Familie, and that he shall never make opposition to any of these, nor endeavour any change thereof. Albeit the League and Covenant be despised by that prevailing party in *England*, and the Work of Vniformity, thorow the retardments and obstructions that have come in the way, be almost forgotten by these Kingdoms; yet the obligation of that Covenant is perpetuall, and all the duties

contained

contained therein are constantly to be minded, and prosecuted by every one of us and our posterity, according to their place and stations: And therefore we are no lesse zealously to endeavour, that his Majestie may Establish, and swear, and subscribe the same, then if it were unanimously regarded and stuck unto by all the Kingdom of *England*, for his Majestie swearing and subscribing the League and Covenant, will much contribute for the Security of Religion, his Majesties happinesse, and the Peace of his Kingdoms.

As it is incumbent to all, who live in this Kirk and Kingdom to be watchful and circumspect, so it concerns these of the High and Honourable Court of Parliament & their Committees, in a special way to see to their duty, and to be straight & resolute in the performance of the same; Their former proceedings is unto us a sufficient evidence and ground of hope, that they will not be wanting in any necessary testimony of dutie and Loyalty that they owe to the King, by using all just and seasonable endeavoures for obtaining satisfaction of his Majestie, that so he may be established upon his Thrones; And we trust, that upon the other hand, the sence of their obligation to God, & his Oath that is upon them, will make them constantly to adhere to their former Principles resolutions, and desires concerning Religion and the Covenant, that reall satisfaction may be had thereanent, before the King be put in the exercise of his power; And that they will carefully provide for the safety of the Kingdom, both in regard of intestine dangers, and in regard of invasion from without: It is not long since they, together with the rest of the Land, made solemn Publick Confession of Compliance with Malignants, carnall confidence, following of self interests, and hearkening to the Counsells of flesh and blood, And did in a speciall way engage themselves to comply, and seek themselves and their own things no more, to abandon the counsels of their own hearts, and not to rely upon the Arm of flesh, and to purge Judicatories and Armies from Profane and scandalous persons; And God forbid that they should so soon forget, or neglect so necessary duties, and fall again unto so great and grievous transgressions. We trust that they will seek the things of *CHRIST*, and not their own things, that they will hearken to His Word, and not walk in the imaginations of their own hearts, that they will relie upon the Arm of the LORD, and not upon the arm of flesh, that they will be wary and circumspect in decerning the dispositions and affections of those whom they put in trust, and that, seeing this Kingdom hath so much smarted, and been so often deceived by compliance with Malignants, they will carefully avoid this snare, in regard of those who were upon the former unlawfull Engagement, and be tender in bringing in of such; And wee cannot but exhort them in the Name of the LORD, to take notice of the Oppression of the People and Commons in the Land, by the lawlesse exactions of Land-Lords, Collectours and Souldiers. We do not justifie the murmurings and grudgings of those, who, preferring

preferring the things of the world to the Gospel and things of *Jesus Christ*, repine at necessary burthens, without which it is not possible that the Land can be secured from invasion without and insurrection within, or the Cause and People of GOD be defended from enemies: It is the duty of every one who hath taken the Covenant, willingly and with a cheerfull minde to bestow their means and their pains as they shall be called thereunto, in an orderly way: Yet should these to whom God hath committed the Government, take care that they be not needlessely burthened, and that none grind their faces by oppression, not only by making of Lawes against the same, but by searching out of the cause of the poor, and by executing these Lawes timously upon these that oppresse them, that they may find real redresse of their just grievances and complaints, and be encouraged to bear those burthens which cannot be avoyded.

As the Parliament have begun, so we hope they will continue, to purge out all these from trust, that are not of known integrity and affection to the cause of God, and of a blamelesse and Christian conversation, and that they and the Officers of the Army in their respective places, will seriously mind, and speedily and resolutely goe about the removing from the Army all malignant and scandalous persons, and also the removing of Sectaries when any shall be found therein, that they may give real evidence that they did not deal deceitfully with God, in the day that they engaged themselves thereto.

Albeit wee hope and pray that those who beare charge in our Army, will from the remembrance of the Lords goodnesse to them, and the honour that he hath put upon them, endeavour to carry themselves faithfully, and straightly; Yet it cannot be unseasonable to warn them to take heed of tentations, & to beware of snares that they be not drawn to indifferencie or neutrality in the cause of God, much lesse unto connivance at, or compliance with the courses and and designes of malignants or Sectaries, but to stick closely by the same, and to be zealous against all the enemies and adversaries thereof: And it concerns souldiers to be content with their wages, and to doe violence to no man, but as they are called unto the defence of the cause and people of God, so to behave themselves in such a blamlesse and Christian way, that their cariage may be a testimony to his cause, and a comfort to his people; So shall our Armies prosper, and the Lord shall goe out with them.

But most of all it concerns the Ministers of the Gospel whom God hath called to give warning to his people to look to their duty; It is undeniably true, that many of the evils wherewith this Kirk and Kingdome hath been afflicted in our age, have come to passe because of the negligence of some, and corruptions of others of the Ministry; Whilest some fell asleep, and were careless, and others were covetous and ambitious, the evil man brought in Prelacy, and

the Ceremonies, and had farre promoted the Service-Book, and the Book of Cannon; and the course of backsliding and revolting was carried on, untill it pleased God to stirre up the spirits of these few, who stood in the gap to oppose and resist the same, and to begin the work of Reformation in the Land; Since which time; the silence of some Ministers, and compliance of others, hath had great influence upon the backsliding of many amongst the people, who upon the discovery of the evill of their way, complain that they got not warning, or that if they were warned by some, others held their Peace, or did justifie them in the course of their backsliding: We can look upon such Ministers no otherwise then upon those that are guilty of the blood of the Lords people, and with whom the Lord will reckon for all the breach of Covenant, and defection that hath been in the Land. The Priests lips should preserve knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of Hosts; But such are departed out of the way, and hath caused many to stumble at the Law, therefore hath the Lord made them contemtible and base before all the people, according as they have not kept his wayes, but have been partiall in his law; Because they have lost their savour, he hath cast out many of them as unsavoury salt: But such as have been faithfull, as he hath preserved them from the violence & fury of men, so hath he verified his word in their mouths, both against his enemies, & concerning his people & his work; And makes them see, though not all their desires concerning the Gospel, & the work of God in the land, yet very much of the fruit of their labour, by preserving the doctrine and all the ordinances of Jesus Christ in their purity, and adding in some measure thereto the power and life thereof. We doe therefore charge all the Ministers of the land, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing in his Kingdom, as in every thing to be ensamples of a good conversation, and to walk without offence, that the ministry be not blamed; So to take heed unto the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, to declare unto them all the Counsell of God, and to give them timous warning concerning every danger and duty, and to hold forth unto them the solid grounds of reall consolation, by which they may be encouraged and comforted in all their trials and afflictions; that they may be free of the blood of all men, and have this as a ground of rejoycing, even the testimony of their consciences, that in simplicity and godly pureneſſe, not with fleshly wisdome, but by the grace of God they have had their conversation in the world, and have exhorted and comforted and charged every one committed unto them as a Father doth his children. Especially, Ministers are to be careful to be much indiscovering the temptations, and pressing the duties of the times, that these who are under their charge may know what to avoid, and what to embrace & pursue: If all the Watchmen in the Land shall give warning, &

blow

blow the Trumpet at once, it shall not be easie for enemies to prey upon the people of God. Wee know no cause why any whom God hath called to preach the Gospel, should be afraid to speak boldly in the Name of the Lord; since God hath given so manifest a testimony of his care and protection, in preserving them, these yeers past, who have striven to be faithfull to him who hath called them, from all the fury and malice of haters of the work of God and of the Kingdom of his Sonne Jesus Christ, who hath promised to be with his servants unto the end of the world.

Albeit the Land be involved in many difficulties, and compassed about with great and iminent dangers, yet there is hope and ground of consolation concerning this thing. The Lord is in the midst of us, and we are called by his name, our eares hear the joyfull sound of the Gospel, and our eyes see our Teachers; We behold the arm of the Lord stretched out daily in working salvation for his people, and answering their desires upon their enemies by terrible things in righteousnesse; Although we be but few in number, yet the Lord of Hosts is with us, and in the power of his strength, we shall be able to prevaile; Although our land be filled with sin, yet we have not been forsaken of the Lord our God, but he hath alwayes had compassion upon us, and delivered us in all our distresses; Although some of understanding fall, it is but to try, and to purge and to make white even to the end, because it is yet for a time appointed; Although many cleave to us by flatteries, yet there be a remnant who keep their integrity, and the Lord shall doe good to these that be good, but such as turn aside to crooked wayes, shall be led forth with the workers of iniquity.

The Lords people in *England* and *Ireland*, who adhere to the cause and Covenant, may be perplexed, but shall not despair; they may be persecuted, but shal not be forsaken; they may be cast down, but shall not be destroyed: And although uniformity, and the work of Reformation in these lands, seem not only to be retarded, but almost pluckt up by the roots, and the foundations thereof razed; Yet the seed wch the Lord hath sowen there, shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward; The zeal of the Lord of Hosts shall performe this.

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30. *July* 1649. *Antemeridiem* Sess. 30.

Act concerning Catechising.

THe Generall Assembly taking to their serious Consideration the great darknesse and Ignorance, wherein a great part of this Kingdom lyeth, together with the late Solemn Engagement, to use all means for remedy thereof, doe ordaine every Minister with assistance of the Elders of their severall Kirk sessions to take course, that in every

house where there is any who can read, there be at least one Copie of the Shorter and Larger Catechisme, Confession of Faith and Directorie for Familie-worship. And doe renew the Act of the Assemblie *August* 30. 1639. for a day of weeklie Catechising, to be constantly observed in every Kirk, And that every Minister so Order their Catechetick Questions, as thereby the People, (who doe not conveen all at one time but by turns unto that exercise) may at every dyet have the chief heads of saving knowledge in a short view presented unto them, And the Assembly considering that notwithstanding of their former Act, these dyets of weekly Catechising are much slighted and neglected by many Ministers throughout this Kingdome, Doe therefore Appoint and Ordaine every Presbytery, to take triall of all the ministers within their bounds once at least in the halfe year, whither they be carefull to keep weekly dyets of Catechising: And if they shall finde any of their number negligent herein they shall admonish for the first fault, and if after such admonition they shall not amend, The Presbyterie for the second fault shall rebuke them sharply, and if after such rebuke they doe not yet amend, they shall be suspended.

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4 *Aug.* 1649. *Antemeridiem* Sess. 40.

Commission for Publick Affaires.

THe Generall Assemblie Considering how necessary it is for preservation of Religion in this Kingdom, and prosecution of the work of uniformity in all his Majesties dominions, That the Commissions formerly granted to that effect be renewed: Therefore they doe renew the power and Commission granted for the Publick affairs of the Kirk by the Generall Assemblies held at *Saint Andres* 1642, and at *Edinburgh*, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647 and 1648, unto the Persons following viz. Masters *Alex. Rollock, John Murray, Thomas Lundie, John Freebairne, Geo: Murray, Harie Livingston, William Macjore, Hew Henderson Samuel Austine, Gavin Young, David Laing, William Maxwell, John Macleland, James Erving, Robert Fergusson, John Sess, Thomas Wylie, Hew Eccles, John Bell Iohn Nevoy, william Gutherie, Iohn Hammiltoun, Hew Peebles, Alex: Dunlope, Harie Semple, David Dickson, Pet: Gillespie, James Durham, Robert Baillie, William Hammiltoun, Francis Aird, Iames Nasmith, Richard Inglis, william Summervail, Evan Cameron, Robert Blair, Samuel Rutherfoord, Iames Wood, Iohn Macgill Elder, Alex. Balfoure, William Row, Iohn Mencreife, Fredrick Carmichaell, Herie wilks, william Oliphant George Pittil, Iohn Robeson, Iames Thomsone, william Rate, Da: Campbell, Andro Cant, Jo: Menzies Andro Abercromby, Robert Sheyn, William Forbes, Iohn Paterson, Duncan Forbes, william Chalmers, Iohn Annand,*

William

Falconer, Murdoch Mackenzie, Robert Jameson, Gilbert Marshell, Jo: Dallase, Wil. Smyth, Robert Hume, Tho. Suintoun, Iamet Strawan, Jo: Douglass, Iames Guthrie, Tho. Donaldson, Will. Iamison, John Livingstoun, Iohn Scot, Andro Dunkeson, John Dalzell, Arthur Forbes, Iames Fleming, Iames Robison, Hew Campbel, Robert Douglasse, Mungo Law, George Leslie, John Adamson, James Hammiltoun, Iohn Smyth, Hew Mackell, Geo: Hutchison, Patrick Fleming, John Hay, Ephraim Melvill, John Row, Gilbert Hall, George Bennet, Kenneth Logie, Iohn Crefurd Ministers. *Archbald Marquesse of Argyle, E. of Sutherland, Alex. E. of Eglintoun, Iohn E. of Cassills, will. E. of Lothian*, the Viscount of *Arbuthnet, Da: L. Elcho* Lo. *Brithen, Rob:* Lo. *Burly, Iames Lo: Couper*, Sir *Archbald Johnstoun* of *warristoun* Clerk Register, *Sir Daniel Carmichael* Thesaurer Depute, *Sir John Hope* of *Craighall, Mr. George Winraham* of *Libbertoun, Mr. Alex: Person* of *Southhal, A. Brodie* of that ilk, four of the ordinary Lords of the Session, *Arthur Erskein of Scottscrage*, Laird of *Wauchtoun, Sir David Hume* of *Wedderburne, Laird* of *Edzell*, Laird of *Nidrie, Sir William Scot* of *Harden*, Laird of *Greenheid*, Laird of *Freeland*, Laird of *Cesnock*, Sr. *Iames Stewart* of *Kirkfield*, the Laird of *Suintoun* younger, Laird of *Eight*, Sir *Iames Fraser*, Sir *Thomas Ker*, Laird of *Fernie*, Sir *Rob. Adair*, Sheriff of *Tiviotdall* younger, Tutor of *Pitsligo*, Sir *John Chiesly*, Laird of *Englistoun*, Laird of *Leslie* younger, La: of *Dunbeth*, La. of *Wawertoun*, Sir *Jo: Smyth*, Mr. *Alex: Colvill* of *Blair, Whitbank* younger, La: of *Grenock, Gallosbiels* younger, *Buchchantie, Crachlam, Cloberhil, Dalserfe*, Mr. *Robert Burnet* younger, Mr. *Tho. Murray, Iames Elvis, David Kennedie, Alex. Iaffray, Iames Sword, George Porterfeild, Mr. [illegible], Drew Kennedy, will. Glendening, Thomas Machirnie, Rob. Barkart, Mr. Iames Campbel, Iohn Carsane, Iohn Beswel*, D. *Alex. Douglasse, Mr. Alex. Skeen, William Brown Elders.* Giving unto them full Power and Commission to do all and every thing for the clearation of the Established Doctrine, Discipline, Worship and Government in his Kirk, against all who shall endeavour to introduce any thing contrarie thereunto, And for prosecuting, advancing, perfecting and bringing the works of uniformitie in Religion in all his Majesties dominions to a happy conclusion conform to the former Commissions granted by preceding Assemblies thereanent.

And to that effect appoints them or any fifteen of them whereof 13. shall be Ministers, to meet in this Citie to morrow the 7. of this instant, and thereafter upon the second Wednesday of *Novemb. Februar*y and *May* next, and upon any other day, and in any other place they shall think fit: Giving also unto them full power, to send Commissioners to the Kingdom of *England*, for prosecuting the Treatie of Uniformitie as they shall find convenience, and to give Instructions and Commissions to that effect conform to former Commissions granted thereanent. And likewise in case delinquents have no constant residence in any one Presbyterie, or if Presbyteries be negligent or overawed, in these cases The Assembly gives to the

persons

persons beforenamed power of censuring Compliers & persons disaffected to the Covenant, according to the Acts of the Assembly, Declaring alwayes and providing, that Ministers shall not be Deposed, but in one of the quarterlie meetings of this Commission; And further authorizes them as formerlie, with full power to make Supplications, Remonstrances, Declarations and Warnings, to Indict Fasts and Thanksgivings as there shal be cause, to protest against all encrochments upon the Liberties of the Kirk, and to Censure all such as Interrupt this Commission or any other Church Judicatorie, or the execution of their Censures, or of any other sentences or Acts Issuing from them; And with full power to them to Treat and Determine in the Matters referred unto them by this Assemblie, as fullie and freelie as if the same were here fully expressed, and with as ample power as anie Commission of anie former Generall Assemblies hath had or been in use of before: Declaring also that all opposers of the Authoritie of this Commission in matters intrusted to them, shall be holden as opposers of the Authoritie of the General Assemblie, and this Commission in their whole Proceedings are Comptable to, and Censurable by the next General Assemblie.

Directorie for Election of Ministers.

WHen any Place of the Ministrie in a Congregation is vacant, it is Incumbent to the Presbyterie with all diligence to send one of their number to Preach to that Congregation, who in his doctrine is to represent to them the necessitie of providing the place with a qualified pastor, & to exhort them to fervent prayer & supplication to the Lord that he would send them a Pastor according to his own heart: As also he is to signifie that the Presbyterie out of their care of that Flock will send unto them Preachers, whom they may hear, & if they have a desire to hear any other, they will endeavour to procure them an hearing of that person or persones upon the sute of the Elders to the Presbyterie.

2 Within some competent time thereafter, the Presbyterie is again to send one or more of their number to the said vacant Congregation, on a certain day appoynted before for that effect, who are to conveen and hear sermon the foresaid day, which being ended, and Intimation being made by the Minister, that they are to goe about the Election of a pastor for that Congregation, the Session of the Congregation shall meet and proceed to the Election, the action being moderated by him that Preached; And if the people shall upon the intimation of the Person agreed upon by the Session acquiesce and consent to the said person, Then the matter being reported to the Presbyterie by Commissioners sent from the session, they are to proceed to the tryall of the person thus Elected, And finding him

him qualified, to admit him to the Ministry in the said Congregation.

3 But if it happen that the Major part of the Congregation dissent from the person agreed upon by the Session, In that case the matter shall be brought unto the Presbyterie, who shall Judge of the same; And if they doe not find their Dissent to be grounded on Causlesse prejudices, they are to appoynt a new Election in manner abovespecified.

4 But if a lesser part of the Session or Congregation shew their dissent from the Election without exceptions relevant and verefied to the Presbyterie, Notwithstanding thereof the Presbyterie shall go on to the trials and ordination of the person elected, yet all possible diligence and tenderneſſe must be used to bring all parties to an harmonious agreement.

5 It is to be understood that no person under the Censure of the Kirk because of any scandalous offence is to be admitted to have hand in the election of a Minister.

6 Where the Congregation is disaffected and Malignant, in that case the Presbyterie is to provide them with a Minister.

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6. *Aug.* 1649. *Antemeridiem* Sess. *ult.*

A Brotherly Exhortation from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, *to their Brethren in* England.

THe many and great obligations which lie upon us in reference to our Brethren in *England*, who hold fast their integrity, and adhere to the Solemn League and Covenant, together with the desire which we have to testifie our Sympathie with them in their afflictions, and to preserve so far as in us lieth that fellowship and correspondence that hath been entertained betwixt the Church of *Scotland* and *England* these years past, do call upon us and constrain us not to be silent in this day of their trouble and distress.

Albeit the Lord (who hath his fire in *Zion*, and his furnace in *Jerusalem*) hath now for a long time past, afflicted these Kingdoms with many and sharp rods, and that his wrath seems not yet to be turned away, but his hand stretched out still; yet in all this, it becomes us who live in these Lands to stop our mouthes, neither can any impute iniquity to the most High.

It is rather a wonder, that any mercy should be continued, and that *England* and *Scotland* are not cut off from being Nations, seeing the back-slidings and provocations of both has been so many and so gross;

groſſe; Although the Solemn League and Covenant was ſworne and ſubſcribed by both, yet have many in both deſpiſed the Oath of GOD, as appears by the late unlawfull Engagement againſt the Kingdom of *England*, contrived and carried on by a prevailing party of Malignants in this Land, and by the proceedings of the Sectaries in *England*, in reference to Religion and Government.

We ſhall not inſiſt upon what hath been the condition and carriage of the Lords People in this Land in reference to the late unlawfull Engagement: As we deſire to magnifie the power and loveing kindeneſſe of the Lord, who enabled all the Judicatures of this Church, and a conſiderable part of the Parliament, and the body of the Land, to diſsent from, and bear Teſtimony againſt the ſame, which made the Houſe of Commons in their Letter directed to the laſt General Aſſembly or their Commiſſioners, to declare, that that Engagement could not be looked on as a Nationall breach; So we look upon it as a wonder of his Wiſdom and Mercy, that he hath diſpoſed and directed the ſame for the furtherance of his Work in our hand, and purging his Houſe amongſt us. All this cometh forth from the Lord of Hoſts, who is wonderful in Counſel and Excellent in Working. Neither was it the leaſt part of the lords goodneſſe to us, in that day of our ſtrait that we were led in a plain path, and kept from complyance with Sectaries on the one hand, no leſs then with Malignants on the other. We have obtained this mercy to be ſteadfaſt to our old principles, in bearing free and faithfull Teſtimony againſt their proceedings, both in reference to Toleration and Government, and the taking away of the Kings life.

And as the danger and judgement which threatens the Authors and Abettors of theſe things, doth affect our Spirits with horrour, and maketh us deſire that it may be given to them of God to repent: So we ſhould conceive our ſelves void of Chriſtian affection and compaſſion toward thoſe in *England*, who ſuffer for the truth and Cauſe of God, if we were not very ſenſible of all their preſent troubles and calamities. It is no ſmall grief to us, that the Goſpel & Government of *Jeſus Chriſt* are ſo deſpiſed in that Land that faithfull Preachers are perſecuted and cryed down, that Toleration is eſtabliſhed by pretext of Law, and maintained by Military power, and that the Covenant is aboliſhed and buried in oblivion. All which proceedings cannot but be looked upon as directly contrary to the Oath of God lying upon us, and therefore cannot eſchew his Wrath when he ſhall come in Judgement, *to be a ſwift witneſſe againſt thoſe that ſwear falſly by his Name.*

Theſe things are the more grievous to us, becauſe (beſide many other wofull evils brought forth by them) they have interrupted the building of the Lords Houſe in *England*; the foundation whereof was laid by Oath and Covenant with the moſt High God, and followed for ſome years with many Declarations and Proteſtations of Faithfull adhering thereto, and with great expenſe of blood and Treaſure:

Treasure: Which things were to all the godly in these Nations a branch of hope, that the Lord would bring to perfection the Work of Uniformity (so far advanced in all the parts thereof) in these three Kingdoms.

But the great obstructions and sad interruptions that have been made therein, by the strange and unexpected practises of many now in place and power in *England*, are to all the welaffected in both Kingdoms, and in all the Churches abroad, the matter of their sorrow and humiliation. And if there be any place left for admonition, we Warn such as have forgotten the Covenant, and despised the Oath of God, and turned aside to lies and errour, to consider whence they are fallen, and to repent. Prosperity and success for a time are no warrantable evidences of a good Cause, nor sufficient guards against the wrath of God. It is no good use of the Lords mercy for such men under pretext of Liberty to make both themselves and others slaves to corruption, & to make all men both in Church and State like the fishes of the Sea, or the creeping things that have no Ruler over them. Are these things according to the Word of God, and the pattern of the best Reformed Churches? Or is that the endeavour to bring the three Kingdoms to the neareſt uniformity that may be in Doctrine, Worship, Government, and Discipline; Or is that the maintaining of the union betwixt the three Kingdomes, when the straitest bond thereof is utterly dissolved and quite taken away, and the fundamentall Government by King and Parliament wholly overturned? The just God who is of pure eyes beholds these things, and shall with no lesse fury and indignation break the horn of these men, then he hath broken the power, and brought down the pride of Maligants before them, if repentance prevent not.

Amidst those fears and griefes, it is unto us matter of rejoycing, that there be many in *England* who mourn for all these abominations, and labour to keep their garments pure by refusing to comply with that course of backsliding, and by bearing testimony against the same. And we hope the expectation of such, shall not be disappointed, but that the Lord will open to them a doore of hope for carrying on of his work, and making the lying spirit to passe out of that land.

And albeit many think no otherwise of the Covenant and work of Reformation, then as a mean to further their own ends; yet we are confident, that none who holds fast their integrity, have so learned Christ, but are carefull to make conscience of the oath of God lying on them; And we are sure (whatever be the base thoughts and expressions of backsliders from the Covenant) it wants not many to own it in these Kingdomes, who (being called thereto) would seale the same with their blood.

Although there were none in the one Kingdome who did adhere to the Covenant, yet thereby were not the other Kingdom nor

any person in either of them absolved from the bond thereof, since in it we have not only sworne by the Lord, but also covenanted with him. It is not the failing of one or more that can absolve others from their duty or tye to him; Besides, the duties therein contained, being in themselves lawfull, and the grounds of our tye thereunto moral, though others do forget their duty, yet doth not their defection free us from that obligation which lyes upon us by the Covenant in our places and stations. And the Covenant being intended and entred into by these Kingdoms, as one of the best means of stedfastnesse, for guarding against declining times; It were strange to say that the back-sliding of any should absolve others from he tye thereof, especially seeing our engagement therein is not only nationall, but also personall, every one with uplifted hands swearing by himselfe, as it is evident by the tennor of the Covenant.

From these and other important reasons, it may appear that all these Kingdomes joyning together to abolish that oath by law, yet could they not dispense therewith; Much lesse can any one of them, or any part in either of them doe the same. The dispensing with oathes hath hitherto been abhorred as Antichristian, and never practised and avowed by any, but by that man of sin; therefore those who take the same upon them, as they joyn with him in his sin, so must they expect to partake of his plagues.

As we shall ever (God willing) be mindfull of our duty to the faithfull that adhere to the Covenant in *England*, having them alwayes in our hearts before the Lord, so we desire to be refreshed with their singlenesse and boldnesse in the cause of God, according to their places. This is the time of their triall, and the houre of tentation among them; blessed shall they be who shall be found following the Lamb, and shall not be ashamed of his testimony. We know in such dark houres, many are drawne away with the multitude, when the Lord will again purge and make white; And we doubt not but many such are in *England*, whom the bold and clear preaching of Christ may reclaim; Much therefore lieth upon the Wath-men at this time, that their Trumpet may give a certain and distinct sound, warning and exhorting every one, as those that must give account; And blessed shall those servants be, who shall be found faithfull in their Lords house, distributing to his household what is meet for this season, and can say they are free of the blood of all men, having shewen them the whole Counsell of God, being in nothing terrified of the threats of their adversaries. And blessed and happy shall that people be, that walk in the light holden forth by them, and staye upon the Lord in this dark time, harkning to the voyce of his servants, and walking in the light of his word, and not in the sparks of their owne kindlings, which will end in sorrow. How inexcusable will *England* be, having so foulie revolted against so many faire testimonies, which the Lord Christ hath entred

entred as Protestations to preserve his right, in these ends of the earth long since given unto him for his possession, and of late confirmed by Solemne Covenant. Christs right to th dle Kingdomes is surer then that he should be pleaded out of it by pretended liberty of Conscience, and his begun possession is more pretious to him, then to be satisfied with a dishonourable toleration. All that yet we have seen, doth not weaken our confidence of the Lords glorifying the house of his glory in these lands, and of his sonnes taking unto him his great power, and reigning in the beauty and power of of his Ordinances in this Island. His name is wonderfull, and so also are his workes, we ought not therefore to square them according to our line, but leave them to him, who hath the government laid upon his shoulder, all whose wayes are judgement, and whose ruling these Kingdoms had never yet reason to decline. It is good for us to stedfast in our duty, and therein quietly to wait and hope for the salvation of God. The word of promise is sure, (and hath an appointed time) that he that will come shall come and will not tarry. There is none hath cause to distrust the Lords word to his people, It hath often to our experience been tryed in the fire, and hath ever come forth with a more glorious lustre. Let not therefore these that suffer in *England* cast away their confidence, they are not the first who have needed patience after that they had done the Lords will. But let them strengthen the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees, and say to the fearfull in heart, be strong, fear not, behold your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence, he will come and save you. Now the just shall live by faith, whereas these that draweth back, or become lukewarm in the Lords work, his soul shall abhorre them, and he shall spue them out of his mouth. But we perswade our selves of better things of these our brethren in *England*, and prayeth that the God of Peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepheard of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting Covenant, may make them perfect in every good work to doe his will, working in them that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be Glory for ever, AMEN.

AD

Act for a Collection for entertaining High-land Boyes at Schooles.

THE Generall Assembly Considering that the contribution of fourty shillings for entertaining of Highland boyes at Schools, in respect of the penury and great indigence of those parts hath not taken the intended effect, Therefore in respect of the necessity and profitableness of so pious a work The Assembly in lieu of the said fourty shillings Do Appoint and Ordain that there be an extraordinary collection at the Kirk doors for that use one Sabbath in the year; And to that effect, that a certain Sabbath yearly be appointed and designed whereupon that collection shall be gathered, intimation being made by the Minister the Sabbath before to prepare for such a collection, and the necessity and usefulness thereof being laid out to the people for that end. And if the collection in any little private Congregation shall be lesse then fourty shillings, The Session shall make up what wants of fourty shillings; And where the collection is more, it is hereby specially inhibited and discharged that any part thereof be retained or interverted to any other use whatsomever; And these Collections shall be sent to the persons formerly appointed to receive the fourty shillings, that they may see the right distribution and employment thereof; Recommending to Presbyteries to see this punctually performed. And accompt thereof shall be craved at Synods and Generall Assemblies. It it alwayes to be remembred that the Congregations exeemed from the fourty shillings are also exeemed from this Collection.

Commission for a conference of Ministers, Lawyers and Physitians, Concerning the tryal and punishment of Witchcraft, Charming and Consulting.

THE Generall Assembly Taking to their serious consideration the growth of the sins of Witchcraft, Charming and Consulting, notwithstanding the frequent Recommendations for restraining thereof; And remembring that the Generall Assembly 1647, did propose a good way for the tryall and punishment of these sinnes, by appointing confe-

rences

rences with some Ministers, Lawyers and Physitians in that matter which hath never yet taken effect; Therefore the Assembly doth Appoint Masters, *Robert Dowglas*, *Robert Blair*, *Mungo Law*, *James Hammilton*, *John Smith*, *Robert Traill*, *George Leslie*, *John Hamilton*, *John Duncan*, *Samuel Rutherfoord*, *James Wood*, *John Levistion*, *James Guthrie*, *Andro Cant*, *David Calderwood*, *John Moncreiff*, *Frederick Carmichael*, *James Durhame*, *Patrick Gillespie*, *Robert Ker*, *Ephraim Melvill*, Ministers, To consider seriously of that matter, and to consult and advise therein amongst themselves, As also with Sir *Archbald Johnston* of *Warriston* Clerk Register, Mr. *Thomas Nicolson* his Majesties Advocate, Mr. *Alex. Peirson*, one of the ordinary Lords of Session, Sir. *Lewes Stewart*, Mr. *Alex. Colvill*, and Mr. *James Robertson* Justice deputes, Mrs. *Rodger Mowet*, *John Gilmoir*, and *John Nisbet*, Lawers; and with Doctors *Sibbald*, *Cunninghame* and *Purves* Physitians severally or together as occasion shall offer; And the Assembly earnestly requests and confidently expects from these learned and Judicious Lawyres and Physitians before-named, their best endeavours and concurrence with their brethren of the Ministrie for advise and counsell herein, and for conference in the said matter; And Ordaine the said brethren to make report of the result of their consultations and conferences from time to time as they make any considerable progresse to the Commission for publick affaires, And the said Commission shall make report to the next Generall Assembly.

Recommendation for maintenance of Schoolmasters and Precenters. See Assembly. 38. pag. 32. art. 6.

THE Generall Assembly, doe humbly Recommend to the Parliament, or Committee for plantation of Churches, that whatever either in Paroches of Burghs, or Landwart, was formerly given to the maintenance of these, who were readers, precentors, in Congregations, and teachers of Schooles before the establishing of the Directory for publick Worship, may not be in whole or in part alienat, or taken away, but be reserved for the maintenance of sufficient schoolmasters, and precentors, who are to be approven by the Presbytrie; And Presbyteries are hereby required, to see that none of that maintenance, given to the foresaid uses, or in use to be payed thereunto, before the establishing of the Directory of Worship, be drawn away from the Church.

Act concerning persons to be admitted Bursars.

THE Assembly doe hereby Ordaine That none be sent to Universities from Presbyteries, nor be admitted as Bursars of divinitie, but pious youths, and such as are known to be of Good expectation and approven abilities.

Reference to the Commission for publick affaires, for re-examining the paraphrase of the Psalmes, and emitting the same for publicke use.

THE Generall Assembly Having taken some view of the new Paraphrase of the Psalmes in meetter with the corrections and animadversions thereupon sent from severall persons and Presbyteries, And finding that they cannot overtake the review and examination of the whole in this Assembly; Therefore now after so much time and so great paines about the correcting, and examining thereof from time to time some yeares bygone, that the worke may come now to some conclusion, They do Ordain the Brethren appointed for perusing the same during the meeting of this Assembly, *viz.* Masters: *James Hammiltoun, John, Smith, Hew Mackail, Robert Traill, George Hutcheson* and *Robert Lowrie* after the dissolving of this Assembly to goe on in that worke carefully, And to report their travels to the Commission of the Generall Assembly for publick affaires at their meeting at *Edinburgh* in *November*; And the said Commission after perusall and re-examination thereof, is hereby authorized with full power to conclude and establish the Paraphrase, and to publish and emit the same for publick use.

Letter to the Kings Majestie.

Most gracious Soveraigne,

WEE your Majesties most humble and Loyall Subjects, the Commissioners from all the Presbyteries in this your Majesties ancient Kingdome, and members of this present Nationall Assembly, Having expected to finde at our meeting, a gracious and Satisfactory returne to those humble representations made to your Majestie at the *Hague*, by the Commissioners of this Kirk, Cannot but expresse our great sorrow and griefe, that your Majesties goodnes has been so far abused, As that not only the just and necessary desires presented by them to your Majestie, which so much concerne the glory of God, your owne honours and happinesse, the peace and safety of your Kingdomes, are utterly frustrated, as wee perceive by the paper delivered in answer to them; but also this Assembly hath not received so much as any signification by letter of your Majesties minde: Which princely condescension had not wont to be wanting in your royall Father, to former Generall Assemblyes, even in times of greatest distance. Our witnesse is in heaven, and record on high, that wee are not conscious to our Selves of any undutifull thought or disloyall affection, that might have procured this at your Majesties hands; And that, as wee doe from our hearts abominate and detest that horrid fact of the Sectaryes against the life of your Royall Father, our late Soveraigne, So it is the unfained and earnest desire of our soules, that the Ancient Monarchicall government of these Kingdoms, may be established and flourish in your Majesties person all the dayes of your life, and be continued in your royal Family, whichby divine providence hath without interruption raigned over us and our predecessors for so many Generations since the time that we were a Kingdom, And that there is nothing under the glory of God, and cause of our Lord Jesus Christ, for which wee doe more heartily solicite the throne of grace, Or would more readily expose unto hazard all that is deare to us in the world, then for this. And now though this very great discouragement might incline us to hold our peace at this time; Yet the tenderneſse and uprightneſse of our affection and Love to your Majesties happinesse (which many waters cannot quench) together with the Conscience of our duty which our Lord and Master has laid upon us, in this our place and station, constraineth us, yea, and your Majesties owne goodnesse and gracious disposition, whereof the late Commissioners have given us so Large a testimony, Doth much encourage us, to renew our addresses to your Majestie in this humble faithfull representation, both of the great and growing dangers to your

your Royall person and Throne, and of these duties, which the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, call for from you, as you would look to finde favour in his eyes, and to be delivered out of your deepe distresses.

Our hearts are filled with fears and troubles, in your Majesties behalf, when we look upon the sad calamities which have been already produced by such wayes and courses, as we perceive your Majestie is entred, and in danger to be further led away into, by the prevalency of evill Councell upon your tender age: Particularly, Your refusing to give satisfaction to the just and necessary desires of the people of God, for advancing the work of reformation of Religion, and establishing and securing the same in your Majesties Dominions, which is nothing else, but to oppose the Kingdome of the Sonne of God, by whom Kings doe raigne, and to refuse that hee should raigne over you and your Kingdomes in his pure Ordinances of Church government and Worship; Your cleaving unto these men as your trustiest Counsellors, who, as they have never had the glory of God, nor good of his people before their eyes, so now in all their wayes and Counsels, are seeking nothing but their owne interests, to the hazard of the utter subversion of your Throne, the ruine of your Royall Family, and the desolation of your Kingdomes; Your owning the practises, and intertaining the Person of that flagicious man, and most justly excommunicate Rebell, *James Graham*, who has exercised such horrid cruelty upon your best Subjects in this Kingdom, which cannot but bring upon your Throne, the guiltinesse of all the innocent blood shed by him and his Complices; and above all, that, which we cannot think upon without trembling of heart and horrour of spirit, Your setling of late such a Peace with the Irish Papists the Murderers of so many thousands of your Protestant Subjects, whereby not only they are owned as your good and Loyall Subjects, but also there is granted unto them (contrary to the Standing Lawes of your Royal Progenitors, contrary to the commandment of the most high God, and to the high contempt and dishonor of his Majestie, and evident danger of the Protestant Religion) a full liberty of their abominable Idolatry; which cannot be otherwise judged, but a giving of your Royal power and strength unto the beast, and an accession to all that blood of your good Subjects, wherewith those Sonnes of Babell have made that Land to swim.

We do in all humility beseech your Majestie to consider and lay to heart what the mouth of the Lord of Hosts hath spoken of all the accompts of People, Nations, Kings, and Rulers against the Kingdom of his Son, that they imagine a vaine thing, and that he that sitteth in heaven will have them in dirision, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Consider, how he hath blasted and turned upside downe these yeares by past, all the devices and plots of those men that now beare the Swey in your Majesties Counsels: Consider, how the anger of God has been kindled, even against his deareſt Saints, when they have joyned

joyned themselves to such men as he hateth and has cursed: Consider, how severely hee hath threatned and punished such Kings as have associate with Idolaters, and leaned unto their helps. Surely, great is the wrath of God, whereof you are in danger; And yet the Lord in the riches of his goodnesse, forbearance and long suffering, is waiting to be gracious to your Majestie; To day if ye will heare his voice, harden not your heart, but humble your self under the mighty hand of God, lamenting after him as, for the iniquities of your Fathers house, especially the opposition against the reformation of Religion and Cause of God, the permitting and practising Antichristian Idolatry in the Royall Family it self, and the shedding of so much blood of the people of God, so also, for your owne entering to walke in the like courses in the beginning of your raign. It is high time to fall downe before the Throne of grace, seeking to get your peace made with God through Jesus Christ whose blood is able to wash away all your sins To walk no longer in the Councel of the ungodly, nor cleave to such as seeke their own things and not the things of Jesus Christ, nor the welfare of your Subjects and Government, but to set your eyes upon the faithfull in your dominions, that such may dwell with you, and be the men of your Councells, To serve the Lord in feare, and kisse the Sonne of God, by a sincere and cordiall contributing your Royall allowance and authority, for establishing in all your dominions the reformation of Religion, in Doctrine, Worship, and Government as it is now agreed upon, according to the cleare and evident warrant of the word of God, by the Assembly of Divines at *Westminster*, and the Generall Assemblies of this Church; And also, laying aside that service book, which is so stuffed with Romish corruptions, And conforming your owne practise and the worship of God in your Royall Family, to that Gospell simplicity and purity which is holden forth from the word of God, in the Directory of worship, and not only to grant your Royall approbation to the Covenant of these three Kingdomes (without which, your people can never have from you sufficient security, either for Religion, or their just liberties) but also your selfe to joyne with your people therein as the greatest security under Heaven for your person and just greatnes, and to cause all of them stand to it by your Royall Command, according to the practise of that gracious King *Josiah*, to whom, wee wish your Majestie in these your younger yeares, and this begining of your reigne, to look as to an ensample and Kingly portract approven of God. These things if your Majestie do; As wee are well assured, that the hearts of all your good Subjects in these Kingdomes will be enlarged with all cheerfulnesse to imbrace your person, and submit unto your Royall Government, so wee darre promise in the Name of our Lord, that you shall finde favour with God, peace and joy unspeakable and full of glory to your Soule, and deliverance out of your sad afflictions and deep distresses in due time: But if your Majestie shall go on in refusing to hearken to wholesome Councels; We must for the discharge

of our Conscience tell your Majestie in the humility and griefe of our hearts, that the Lords anger is not turned away, but his hand stretched out still against you and your Family. But wee hope, and shall with all earnestnesse and constancy pray for better things from, and to your Majestie: And whatsoever misconstruction (by the malice of those that desire not a right understanding and cordiall conjunction between your Majestie and this Kirk and Kingdome) may be put upon our declaration; Yet wee have the Lord to be our witnesse, that our purpose and intention therein is no other, but to warne and keepe the people of God committed to our care, that they runne not to any course which would bring upon themselves the guilt of highest perjury and breach of Covenant with God, and could not but prove most dangerous to your Majestie and your Goverment, and involve you in shedding the blood of those who are most desirous to preserve your Majesties Person, and just right in all your dominions. And now wee doe with all earnestnes beseech your Majestie, that you will follow the courses of truth and peace; And that when there is a doore opened for your Majestie to enter to your Royall Government over vs, in peace, with the favour of God, and cordiall Love and imbracings of all your good Subjects, You will not suffer your selfe to be so farre abused and misled by the Councels of men, who delight in War, as to take a way of violence and blood, which cannot but provoke the most high against your Majestie, and alienat from you the hearts of your best Subjects, who desire nothing more, than that your Majestie may have a long and happy raign over them, And that they may live under you, a peaceable and quiet life, in all Godlinesse and honesty.

Edinburgh 6 August, 1649.

Your Majesties most Loyal Subjects and humble servants the Ministers and Elders conveened in this Nationall Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland.

THe Generall Assembly not having now time to consider the Reference of preceding Assemblies, and the most part of Presbyteries not having sent their opinions in writ; Therefore do yet againe recommend to Presbyteries and Provincial Assemblies to consider all matters referred by this or by any former Assemblies, And to send their opinions therein in writ to the next Generall Assembly.

THe meeting of the next Generall Assembly is hereby appointed to be at *Edinburgh*, the second wednesday of *July*, 1650.

A. Ker.

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